

Stated Meeting, October 3, 1862.

Present, thirteen members.

Judge SHARSWOOD, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter transmitting a donation for the Library was received from the Royal Academy at Madrid, dated January 1st, 1862.

Donations to the Library were received from the London Geographical, Geological, and Antiquarian Societies; Society of Arts and Institutions in Union; Dr. Edward Jarvis of Dorchester, Mass., and Prof. A. D. Bache.

Donations for the Cabinet were received from Prof. Bache, and Capt. Thomas Y. Field, U. S. Marine Corps.

The committee to which was referred the manuscripts of the late President of the Society, Peter C. Dupleau, presented by his granddaughter, reported, recommending that these manuscripts be carefully preserved in the Library of the Society.

Obituary notices of Professor Tucker and of G. W. Bethune, D.D., were read by Dr. Dunglison.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF PROF. GEORGE TUCKER.

Professor George Tucker was born in Bermuda in the year 1775. He came to this country when about twelve years of age, to be educated under the superintendence of his relative, Judge St. George Tucker, who was Professor of Law in the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and was the father of Judge Beverly Tucker, afterwards Professor of Law in the same college, and of Judge Henry St. George Tucker, Professor of Law in the University of Virginia, and author of Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia. Professor Tucker's collegiate education was at the College of William and Mary, after which he studied law, and practised his profession in Richmond, and afterwards at Pittsylvania and in Lynchburg, and for a considerable distance around, with great success. He was elected to the Legislature of Virginia from Pittsylvania, and in 1819, whilst a resident of Lynchburg, was chosen member of Congress to represent the district composed of the counties of Pittsylvania, Halifax, and Campbell. He was in Richmond at the time of the terrible sacrifice of life by the burning of the Theatre in 1811, and from a falling

beam, received a severe wound, which resulted in a permanent scar over one eye.

Whilst in Richmond, he contributed to the "British Spy," edited by Mr. Wirt, and wrote amongst other communications, in the year 1800, on the Conspiracy of the Slaves in Virginia, and in 1811, on the Roanoke Navigation, which were printed. In the State Legislature, and in Congress, he was most distinguished as chairman or member of important committees, in which his services were highly valued, and he was twice re-elected to Congress. In the year 1822, he published "Essays on various subjects of Taste, Morals, and National Policy, by a Citizen of Virginia," which were so favorably thought of, as was, indeed, his whole course in the Legislature of Virginia, and in Congress, by President Madison, that he urged and obtained his appointment to the Chair of Moral Philosophy and Political Economy in the nascent University of Virginia.

In the year 1819, after the death of a daughter at an early age, who had given promise of varied excellence, he wrote in Lynchburg, "Recollections of Eleanor Rosalie Tucker." In 1824 appeared "The Valley of Shenandoah," a novel, intended to illustrate the manners of the Old Dominion, which was republished, the writer has been informed, in London in 1825, and in Germany the year after.

In consequence of the protracted voyage—of fourteen weeks—from England of the vessel in which were the writer of this notice, and two of the professors, the opening of the University of Virginia, which was to have been on the 1st of February, did not take place until April, 1825, when Professor Tucker, the oldest of the professors, and the one most familiar with the habits of the country, was chosen Chairman of the Faculty for the first session.

During his residence at the University, he engaged in many literary labors. In 1827, he published a work of fiction entitled "A Voyage to the Moon," the evident aim of which was to fulfil for the existing age, what Swift had so successfully accomplished for that which had passed by; to attack, by the weapons of ridicule, those votaries of knowledge, who may have sought to avail themselves of the universal love of novelty amongst mankind to acquire celebrity, or who may have been misled by their own ill-regulated imaginations to obtrude upon the world their crude and imperfect theories and systems, to the manifest retardation of knowledge. It was reviewed by the writer in the American Quarterly Review for March, 1828.

In 1837, Professor Tucker published "The Laws of Wages, Profits, and Rent Investigated," and in the same year, his "Life of

Thomas Jefferson," in two large volumes, which received high commendation in the "Edinburgh Review" from Lord Brougham, as "a very valuable addition to the stock of our political and historical knowledge." In it, Professor Tucker does not always accord with the illustrious subject of his biography. The work, indeed, manifests a laudable desire to do justice, and to decide impartially on contested topics; and hence, perhaps, it failed to give satisfaction to the ardent supporters, as well as to the bitter opponents of Mr. Jefferson.

In December, 1837, he delivered before the Charlottesville Lyceum, "A Public Discourse on the Literature of the United States," which was published in the Southern Literary Messenger for February, 1838; and in which he enumerates many of the contributions made in this country to the domains of science and literature, concluding with glowing auguries of their future "progressive brightness."

In 1839 appeared a small volume, entitled "Theory of Money and Banks," the copyright of which Professor Tucker was unable to dispose of in Philadelphia or New York, and which was published in Boston, and soon passed to a second edition. His "Progress of the United States in Population and Wealth in Fifty Years, as exhibited by the Decennial Census from 1790 to 1840," was a valuable contribution to statistics and political economy. It was a thorough analysis of the census for the period mentioned, and led its author to important inferences on the subjects of the probabilities of life, the proportion between the sexes, emigration, the diversities between the two races which compose our population, the progress of slavery, and of productive industry, &c. To this he added an appendix in 1855, when eighty years of age, containing an abstract of the census of 1850, in the preface to which he expresses the patriotic hope "that these authentic exhibitions of our growth and improvement, so gratifying to the pride and love of country, will lead our citizens to greater party forbearance, and give them new incentives to cherish that Union to which, under heaven, they owe the blessings they enjoy." Impelled by the same sentiments, he gave "A Public Discourse on the Dangers most Threatening to the United States;" (Washington, 1843.)

Professor Tucker's last production at the University of Virginia, was a "Memoir of the Life and Character of Dr. John P. Emmet," the accomplished Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica in the University, who died in 1842.

During the whole of this period of his life, he had been a prolific contributor to the public journals, and to the more imposing periodi-

cals, as the *North American*, the *American Quarterly*, the *Southern*, and the *Democratic Reviews*, and at an earlier period, to the *Portfolio of Philadelphia*; and when his colleague, Professor George Long, left the University of Virginia, to occupy a professorship in the University of London, and became editor of the *London Journal of Education*, and of the *Penny Cyclopædia*, Professor Tucker was, at his request, the author of various educational articles in the former, and in the latter, of sundry biographical notices, as of Presidents Jefferson and Madison, and of geographical contributions in regard to the United States.

From the first opening of the University of Virginia, it had been thought by many of its most intelligent friends, that it presented a favorable occasion for the establishment of a literary journal. It was presumed that eight or nine professors, who were daily occupied in communicating the fruits of their studies to others, would be qualified to make such a work at once useful and interesting to the public. It was known that the plan of the Institution was principally the work of Mr. Jefferson, and that important innovations had been made in its discipline and course of instruction, whence it was inferred that a lively curiosity would be felt to learn the progress of an experiment, made by one of the most popular and most philosophical statesmen of his age. It was not, however, until the year 1829, after the University had been visited by an endemic disease, from which no locality, however healthy, is exempt, and the feeling of the faculty, that if such a medium of communication had been in existence, they might have been able to allay popular apprehension, and prove from unquestionable evidence the general salubrity of the place, that they determined on the establishment of a weekly periodical, entitled "*The Virginia Literary Museum, and Journal of Belles-Lettres, Arts, Sciences, &c.*," the editorial charge of which was assigned to Professor Tucker and the writer. The first number appeared on the 17th of June, 1829; but although its contents were diversified and interesting, it was discontinued at the end of the year, and mainly for causes which have proved fatal to so many undertakings of the kind,—the failure of the contributors to afford the aid they had profusely promised, and hence the editors found, that to furnish the requisite materials from their own resources, demanded more of their time than was consistent with their other duties and engagements. The contributions of Professor Tucker were numerous and varied, but were, generally, popular essays on the subjects that appertained directly or indirectly to the chair he held in the University.

In the year 1845, at the age of seventy, with his mental powers undimmed, he resigned his Chair in the University of Virginia, and decided to spend the remainder of his days in comparative leisure. At all times fond of social intercourse with the enlightened, he had never failed to pass his vacations away from the University, and generally spent a portion of the time at the summer resorts of the refined and intellectual. Philadelphia was his choice for a permanent residence, both on account of its intelligence, and the opportunities afforded by its libraries to the seekers after knowledge. He was chosen a member of this Society in 1837, and was, likewise, a member of the Historical Society.

From the time Professor Tucker took up his residence in Philadelphia until his death, with brief intervals of relaxation, he adhered to his student life, and continued his contributions to various literary periodicals, and especially to those which were devoted to the elucidation of great questions of politics and political economy.

His undiminished intellectual activity is signally shown by his having commenced about the year 1850, or when seventy-five years of age, the herculean task of collecting materials for a political history of the United States. To aid him in the execution of his work, as he himself remarks, it had been his good fortune to have a personal knowledge of many, who bore a conspicuous part in the Revolution, and of nearly all those who were the principal actors in the political dramas which succeeded. The history extends to the elevation of General Harrison to the Presidency, in 1841. This seemed to Professor Tucker as far as he could prudently go, at least, without obtaining some testimony from public sentiment of his fairness to his contemporaries.

The work was comprised in four volumes, the first of which appeared in 1856, and the last in 1857. The first chapter is devoted to colonial history prior to the Declaration of Independence, and the remainder to the Confederation and the United States.

Nor was this elaborate work the last production of its venerable and indefatigable author. In 1859, he printed, and was his own publisher of "Political Economy for the People," being in substance a compendium of the lectures on Political Economy, delivered by him in the University of Virginia, with such alterations and additions as his farther experience and reflection had suggested; and lastly, in 1860, when eighty-five years of age, he issued on his own account, "Essays, Moral and Metaphysical," some of which had been already published anonymously or separately, but were now republished, and

added to the series. These essays were respectively, On our Belief of an External World; On Cause and Effect, read before this Society; On Simplicity in Ornament; On Sympathy; On the Association of Ideas; On Dreams; On Beauty; On Sublimity; On the Ludicrous; On Classical Education; On the Siamese Twins, read before this Society; and On the Love of Fame.

Professor Tucker's protracted and useful existence was now verging to a close. The death—in the summer of 1859—of his wife, the constant and faithful participator in his joys and his sorrows for upwards of thirty years, gave occasion to a thorough revolution in his domestic arrangements, and in place of wisely determining

“To husband out life's taper at the close,
And keep the flame from wasting by repose,”

he undertook extensive and harassing journeys. In the early portion of the summer of 1860, he visited Baltimore, Washington, Norfolk, the Eastern Shore of Virginia; and in the middle of June, in company with his son-in-law, Mr. George Rives, of Virginia, travelled as far as Chicago, to look after property which he had there. He did not suffer from the long journey he took on this occasion, and subsequently in Virginia, and returned to Philadelphia in the early part of the winter, with the intention of escaping the severity of the northern winter, from which he had suffered greatly the previous year, by a sojourn in the South. In December, he left Philadelphia, and in company with a friend proceeded from Richmond, in Virginia, to Columbia, in South Carolina; and afterwards to Charleston, Savannah, and other Southern cities. The last letter the writer received from him was dated Savannah, in February, 1861. In it he feelingly and deplorably depicts the condition of Southern sentiment as exhibited there. “The state of public affairs,” he remarks, “is indeed gloomy, even to heart-sickening. People seem to be crazed in the fancies of imaginary evils, and of their strange remedies.”

Some weeks after the date of this letter, the writer was pained to learn from Mrs. Rives, the eldest daughter of Professor Tucker, that while landing at Mobile from a steamboat from Montgomery, her father had been struck down by a bale of cotton, which was being removed from the vessel; and that the shock to his system was so great, that for two or three days he was insensible, or more or less incoherent. Under a most hospitable roof, he remained at Mobile, until his son-in-law reached the place, when he was removed to Sherwood, in Albemarle County, Virginia, the residence of Mr.

Rives, where, surrounded by his estimable relatives, he gradually sank, and died on the 10th of April, at the advanced age of eighty-six.

Few persons have contributed more to the literature of the period than Professor Tucker. He himself estimated the amount of his more fugitive productions,—about one-half of which were anonymous and gratuitous,—at ten thousand pages. His talents were at one period directed greatly towards the composition of works of fiction, and he occasionally wooed the muse. When at the White Sulphur Springs of Virginia, in his extensive journeyings in the summer before his death, he composed measured lines, upwards of one hundred in number, entitled “*Life’s Latest Pleasures*,” the manuscript of which he gave to the writer, before setting out on his last journey to the South, in which, to use his own language, he casts a look on the future,

“And midst old age’s cares and pains,
Asks what enjoyment yet remains.”

His forte was not, however, the imaginative. It is as a successful and equitable writer on great questions of politics and political economy, and of intellectual philosophy, that he will take his place. His *Biography of Jefferson*, and his *History of the United States* may, indeed, be regarded less as narratives of occurrences than views of great national and political questions, as they from time to time arose, logically discussed, and conveyed in language which has usually the merit of great terseness and perspicuity.

During his residence in Philadelphia, Professor Tucker was a frequent attendant on the meetings of this Society, and at the time of his death was a member of the Board of Officers and Council.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF DR. GEORGE W. BETHUNE.

Dr. George W. Bethune was born in New York on the 18th of March, 1805. The name Bethune was originally French, and was that of the celebrated Duc de Sully. Some of Dr. Bethune’s ancestors must have migrated to Scotland, where the name was and is often pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, and from it were corrupted the names of the families of Beaton and Betton, who have the same heraldic bearings as Béthune, or Bethune’ as it was pronounced by the family of the subject of this notice.

Dr. Bethune’s parents were born in Scotland. His father, Mr. Divie Bethune, removed to New York in 1792, where he became a